



CALFED  
BAY-DELTA  
PROGRAM

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Date: February 5, 1997

To: CALFED Agencies (See Attached Distribution List)

From: Lester A. Snow, Executive Director  
CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Subject: Fish and Aquatic Ecosystem Assessment Methods

The CALFED Bay-Delta Program (Program) is beginning the impact analysis process for the Program's Programmatic Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement. As part of this effort, the Program in conjunction with CALFED agency and stakeholder experts is selecting assessment methods to be used in impact analysis for each resource category.

For fish and aquatic resources, a team of CALFED agency and stakeholder experts have been meeting regularly since June 1996 to resolve issues and develop a process for selecting assessment methods for fish and aquatic resources. These meetings have been successful in resolving many questions and issues and developing a common approach for the Program's fish and aquatic ecosystem impact analysis. The final series of meetings to select the actual assessment methods have been scheduled (see attached meeting notice).

The fair and accurate assessment of impacts to fish and aquatic resources is fundamental to the selection of a Preferred Program. It is critical that upon completion of the meetings scheduled for the selection of the fish and aquatic ecosystem assessment methods, that there is agreement and support among the CALFED agencies and stakeholders for the assessment methods.

Continued participation by your agency in the development of the fish and aquatic ecosystem methods is essential to their successful use during impact analysis. More importantly, to ensure the forward progress and momentum of the Program, it is critical that your agency agree to and support the selected assessment methods before the Program undertakes impact analysis and preparation of the programmatic environmental documents.

If you have any questions please contact Wendy Halverson Martin at (916) 657-2666.

Attachments

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**CALFED Agencies**

**California**

The Resources Agency  
Department of Fish and Game  
Department of Water Resources  
California Environmental Protection Agency  
State Water Resources Control Board

**Federal**

Environmental Protection Agency  
Department of the Interior  
Fish and Wildlife Service  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Department of Commerce  
National Marine Fisheries Service